

sterilisation process, characterized in that the sterilisation apparatus comprises a double-walled boiler] having an inner wall and an outer wall, whereby fluid [such as demineralised water being] is present between the inner and the outer wall [by which] such that a stable temperature of the [boiler] inner wall can be achieved as well as steam generated therefrom.

2. ☐ (Amended) ☒ [A] The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that [at least] regulators and heating elements in said double boiler walls can provide for a stable fluid temperature.

3. ☐ (Amended) ☒ [A] The apparatus according to claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that means are present for feeding steam for the sterilisation process pulsatingly into said boiler, [as well as] and means [which] can also provide a pulsating vacuum in said boiler such that air in the instruments or the like objects which are to be sterilised can be removed.

4. ☐ (Amended) ☒ [A] The apparatus according to [any of preceding] claim[s] 1[-3], characterized in that means are present for setting[, respectively] and measuring pressure, temperature, time and output for controlling all phases occurring within said boiler before, during and after the sterilisation process.

5. ☐ (Amended) ☒ [A] The apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that [the] said means are controlled by a process computer which displays various data read-outs digitally and/or alphanumerically and/or graphically[, e.g. to an internal or external printing apparatus (printer)].

6. ☐ (Amended) ☒ [A] The apparatus according to [any of the preceding] claim[s] 1, characterized in that a [(time)] switch clock for use of "stand-by" purposes, such as for heating-up of and maintaining the temperature of said boiler, is available.

7. ☐ (Amended) ☒ [A] The apparatus according to [any or several of the preceding] claim[s] 1, characterized in that [the] a sterilisation space of the boiler is provided with lateral supports for a number of standard plateaus on which instruments, whether wrapped or not, and/or bandage substances may be placed.

8. ☐ (Amended) ☒ [A] The apparatus according to [any or several of the preceding] claim[s] 5, characterized in that the front or feed side of the boiler can be sealed pressure-tight by means of a heat-isolating hinged door provided with an incorporated nut whereby the casing to that end is provided with a swivelable hermetically sealing screw.

13 Sub B3 10. (Amended) [A] The apparatus according to [any or several of the preceding] claim[s] 1, characterized in said double-walled boiler consists of a cylindrical sterilisation boiler [is] placed symmetrically though non-concentrically within [the] a cylindrical outer boiler, such that in the use-position the volume of the fluid or water space [down in] on the bottom of the double-walled boiler is ¹¹²considerably larger than [up in] at the top of the boiler.

11. (Amended) [A] The apparatus according to [any or several of preceding] claim[s] 1[-9], characterized in that said double-walled boiler consists of a cylindrical sterilisation boiler [is] placed concentrically within a cylindrical outer boiler.

12. (Amended) [A] The apparatus according to [any of preceding] claim[s] 1-9, characterized in that [the] said process computer and [a] said sterilisation apparatus [according to claim 10 or 11] are provided in a casing in which also the fluid reservoir with corresponding pump, control appendages, a dry-air connection and a connection to a vacuum line with valves [being] are present.

Please add the following claims:

A 13. The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the front or feed side of the boiler can be sealed pressure-tight by means of a heat-isolating hinged door provided with an incorporated nut whereby the casing to that end is provided with a swivelable hermetically sealing screw.

Sub B4 14. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said fluid is demineralized water.

15. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said data read-outs are displayed to an internal or external printing apparatus.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include a reference to the International Application No. of the present application, PCT/NL97/00404. Additional amendments correct minor informalities in the specification.

The claims have been amended and Claims 13-15 added to more precisely claim the invention according to conventional practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office.